



WIRKSWORTH

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL


REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1937.



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Wirksworth Urban District Council.



Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1937.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Report for the year 1937.

Wirksworth is a market town in the centre of an agricultural area, which is largely milk-producing. It is situated on limestone and limestone quarrying forms one of the principal industries of the place. Tape-weaving is another industry, and three mills afford employment of this description.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres), 4,015.

Population: Census (1931), 4,855 (1937 R. G.), 4,689.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,444.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 1,444.

Rateable Value, £21,262.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £80.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

As will be seen from the following statistical figures, a comparison with other districts is quite favourable.

		Total	Males	Females
Live Births—Legitimate	- 69	71	37	34
Illegitimate	- 2			
Still Births—Legitimate	- 4	4	2	2
Illegitimate	- 0			
Birth Rate	- -	15.1		
Deaths	- - - - -	Total 61	Males 34	Females 27
Death Rate	- -	13.0		

No. of Women dying in/*or* in consequence of childbirth -
 From Sepsis - 0. From other causes - 1.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

Total—6. Legitimate—6. Illegitimate—0.
 Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births - 84.
 Mainly deaths of the newly-born prematurity etc.

England and Wales—Infantile Death Rate - - 58
 Birth Rate - - - 14.9
 Death Rate - - - 12.4

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - - - 0
 „ Whooping Cough - - - 0
 „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age) - 1

Tuberculosis.

Age Period			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-							
1	-	-	-							
5	-	-	-	1		1				
10	-	-	-							
15	-	-	-							
20	-	-	-					1		
25	-	-	-							
35	-	-	-							
45	-	-	-							
55	-	-	-					1		
65 and upwards	-	-	-							
Totals			-	1 0		1 0		1 1		0 0

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No notifications of Tuberculosis have been received in respect of those engaged in the Milk Trade, and no action has been required.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, Section 62.

No action has been taken under this section during 1937.

The notification of Tuberculosis appears to be satisfactory.

Other Infectious Diseases notified (other than Tuberculosis) are shown in the following table:—

Disease		Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox -	-	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	0
Diphtheria	-	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	-	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	-	1	1	0
„ Pyrexia	-	2	1	0
Pneumonia	-	20	3	2
Measles	-	18	0	0
Chickenpox	-	3	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		2	0	0
Erysipelas	-	1	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	0	0	0

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified	Treated in Hospital	Vision	Deaths
2.	Nil	Nil.	Nil.

You will observe from the tables of infectious diseases that the total number for the year is only 46, which, I think is a comparatively low figure, and we may consider ourselves very fortunate.

Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

Hospitals.

A Cottage Hospital in the town, which is dependant largely on voluntary subscriptions, affords in-patient and out-patient treatment. Provision is also made for Maternity cases.

The Royal Infirmary, Women's Hospital, and Children's Hospital, Derby, are available, mainly on the "recommend system."

1. *Professional Nursing in the Home.*

(a) General - None.

(b) Infectious Diseases - None.

2. *Midwife.*

(a) One practising privately.

(b) One attached to the Cottage Hospital, but this service was discontinued in the latter part of the year, with the coming of new maternity arrangements, under the County Council, whereby a midwife under their supervision is provided.

3. *Clinics and Treatment Centres.*

(a) **Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Matlock** provided by and under the control of the Derbyshire County Council.

(b) **Day Nurseries**—None.

(c) **School Clinics** at the Elementary Schools in Wirksworth provided by the Derbyshire County Council.

(d) **Tuberculosis** at the Tuberculosis Department, New County Offices, Derby, and also at the Tuberculosis Clinic, Matlock, provided by the Derbyshire County Council.

(e) **Venereal Disease** at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, provided by the Derbyshire County Council.

4. *Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council.*

(a) **Tuberculosis**—Derbyshire Sanatorium, outside the district provided by the County Council.

(b) **Maternity**—Accommodation is provided at the Cottage Hospital and a grant is made by the County Council.

(c) **Children**—None.

(d) **Fever**.—Heage Isolation, outside the District, to which the Local Authority contributes its share.

(e) **Smallpox**.—Heage Isolation, outside the District.

5. *Institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children, and Homeless Children.*—None.

6. *Ambulance Facilities.*

(a) For infectious cases, provided by the Heage Isolation Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases.

(i.) St. John Motor Ambulance, stationed at Matlock.

(ii.) Matlock Motor Ambulance, stationed at Matlock.

Laboratory Work.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are made by the County Council Bacteriological Department.

Number of Specimens sent to the County Laboratory by private practitioners during 1937 :—

			Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria	-	-	0	3	3
Enteric Fever	-	-	0	1	1
Phthisis	-	-	1	3	4
Miscellaneous	-	-	1	6	7
Total	-	-	2	13	15

The Local Authority provides Diphtheria Antitoxin and Tetanus Antitoxin free of cost. A supply is kept by the Medical Officer of Health, who renders an account of its use to the Local Authority.

The following quantities were issued during 1937 :—

Diphtheria Antitoxin - 3 vials, each containing 4,000 units.

Tetanus Antitoxin - 2.

List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force in the District.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention)	Date of Adoption.
Act, 1890 - - -	6th December, 1893

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III. (subject to cer- tain conditions as to Sects. 35 & 38 Order L.G.B. No. 59992, of 22nd January, 1913)	-	20th December, 1902
		5th March, 1913

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 (subject to certain con- ditions as to Sects. 25, 27 & 30 Order L.G.B. No. 63662, 29th May, 1915)	-	12th July, 1915
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Bye-laws :—

New Streets and Buildings	-	1926
Common Lodging-houses	-	1879
Nuisances	- - -	1879
Cleaning Footways, Removal of House Refuse, & Cleans- ing Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools	- -	1879
Shops Acts, 1912-28	- -	25th August, 1930
Do. 1934	- - -	26th November, 1934
Offensive Trades Order of L.G.B., No. 63721, of 18th June, 1915, confirming Council's Order of 26th April, 1915, containing list of offensive trades	-	26th April, 1915
Chicken Pox Compulsory Notifica- tion Order for Compulsory notification	- - -	22nd February, 1926
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II. to IV., except Sections 21, 22 and 44	- - -	2nd May, 1927

Shops Acts 1934, came into operation by adoption 1936.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

Both the Wigwell and Dunsley supplies of water have proved satisfactory throughout the year, and with the original sources, there has been ample water of good quality for all purposes.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The system, on the whole, works very satisfactorily. In the near future, however, it will be necessary to consider the provision of another percolating filter at the main sewage works, and so allow of proper "resting" of the filters. With the addition of Middleton, the building of new houses, and the continued conversions to water-carriage, the strain on the works becomes increasingly greater.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

All known sources of pollution have been removed from the Hannage Brook.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

This is carried out in the entire district by annual contract—cost £460.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of on the Gorsey Bank and Hopton Wood tips, with the exception of the contents of the pail closets, which are taken to the Sewage Farm.

I should like to see a properly shuttered refuse-collecting vehicle in use in the district, and venture to suggest that this might be made possible by the offer of a longer contract period. I understand that vehicles of the convertible type are now obtainable, making it possible to use the same vehicle for refuse collection or haulage work.

PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

Seven privy-middens and fourteen pail closets have this year been converted to W.C's.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and the water supply of the schools in the area is in most cases satisfactory.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—Twenty-four milk samples were taken for analysis, during the year, and were mainly satisfactory. Dairies and cow sheds were regularly inspected throughout the year and found generally satisfactory.

(b) **Meat.**—Meat and places where meat is stored and sold have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

(c) **Other Foods.**—The storage of food and the conditions under which it is sold have come under regular inspection and been found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

Sixteen houses, ten of the four bedroom type and six of the five bedroom type are nearing completion. As soon as these are ready for occupation, some diminution of overcrowding will be secured, probably as many as thirty or forty cases.

Eight houses have been built by private enterprise, during the year, making in all, twenty-four new houses.

Much has yet to be done to eliminate overcrowding and to bring properties up to habitable standard, but progress, consistent with economy, should ultimately produce a successful issue.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. S. G. CHRISTIE.

Sanitary Administration.

Sanitary Inspector :

CHARLES FROBISHER, F.Inst.H.E., A.M.I.Struct.E., C.R.S.I.,
Chartered Engineer.

- (1) No. of houses converted from Privy Middens, etc., to
Water Closets during the year 1937 - - 7

No. of Privy Middens, etc., converted to Water Closets
during the past eight years :—

Year	-	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
No.	-	27	27	35	8	9	31	19	7

- (2) Approximate Number of Houses at 31st December with :

(a)	Privy Middens	-	-	142
(b)	Pail Closets	-	-	164
(c)	Water Closets	-	-	1100

Total 1406

- (3) Work of the Sanitary Inspector under Article 19 of the
Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926 :

Area of District, 4,015 acres.

Estimated No. of Houses inhabited, 1,444.

New Houses erected 1937 : 24.

(a) By Local Authority, 16.

(b) By Private Enterprise, 8.

CLOSETS AND ASHPITS.

	No. of Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector.	No. of Legal Notices served by Local Authority.	No. of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
(a) Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits (<i>not for conversion</i>)	- 14	50	26
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s	—	7	7
(a) Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s	- - - 14	—	14
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets.	- - - 6	—	6
Defective Water Closets	- - 9	—	9
Provision of additional W.C.'s	- 9	1	12
(a) Provision of Portable Ashbins	- 3	30	33
Dirty Closets	- - 5	—	10

DRAINAGE—

(a) No Disconnection of Waste Pipe	12	26	4
(a) Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, In-			
lets and Drains - - -	19	7	14
Drains Obstructed - - -	3	9	12

OTHER DEFECTS—

(a) Paving of Courts and Yards -	22	32	19
(a) Roofs, Eaves and Down-Spouts -	14	30	10
(a) Sinks - - - -	10	19	18
(a) Insufficient Ventilation - -	29	50	26
(a) Windows - - - -	42	9	18
(a) Dampness - - - -	14	40	9
Water in Cellars - - -	6	14	2
(a) Water Supply: Burst Pipes and			
Defective Taps - - -	26	—	25
Separate Overcrowding Survey :			
258 Houses Surveyed.			
50 found overcrowded under			
the Act. - - -	50	—	2
No action taken by Council during			
the year.			
Foul Condition of Houses - -	10	—	9
Offensive Accumulations - -	6	—	6
Animals improperly kept - -	2	—	2
Pigstyes - - - -	3	—	3
Smoke Nuisances - - -	4	—	3
Urinals - - - -	1	—	1
Nuisances not specified above -	28	16	44

(a) Majority of these are outstanding in property at Wash Green, West End, Chapel Lane, Dale Street, Green Hill, reports upon which have been deferred by Council, for various reasons.

	Number on Register.	Inspec- tions made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated with or without Notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	55	79	40	52
Bakehouses - - - -	8	24	—	3
Slaughter Houses - - -	4	16	—	5
Offensive Trades - - -	5	20	—	3
Common Lodging Houses (closed)	—	—	—	—
Total -	72	139	40	63

Infected Rooms Disinfected, 18. Method: Fumigation.

Sewage effluents taken quarterly by County Council.

Prosecutions, Particulars of: Sanitary defects.

Result of prosecution: None.

Food Seizures: Nil.

Milk Samples Analysed - - - - 24

Food Voluntarily Surrendered: nil.

Water Samples Analysed - - - - 2

Other Action taken: Pamphlets issued to all Shopkeepers, Cowkeepers and Dairymen, of their obligations under the Inspective Acts.

(4) Inspection of places where food is prepared:

	Inspections made.
(a) Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	- 79
(b) Bakehouses - - - -	- 24
(c) Slaughter Houses - - -	- 16
(d) Offensive Trades (Fish Frying Premises) -	20
Total	- 139

(5) Number and condition of Slaughter Houses registered or licensed:

	1937.
Registered - - - -	3
Licensed - - - -	1

The Slaughter Houses are kept clean and are lime-washed four times a year in accordance with Regulations, and offal regularly cleared.

(6) Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfestation and the extent of their use :—

Upon the recovery of a patient from infectious disease, or the removal of a patient to hospital, the infected rooms are disinfected with Formalin Vapour, and, if necessary, the clothing and bedding sent to Heage Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.

Number of Rooms disinfected in 1937	18.
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(7) Action taken with regard to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops :—

Every Cowkeeper, Dairyman and Purveyor of Milk in the district is registered, and their premises and utensils are kept under observation.

The number on the Register is as follows :—

Retail Purveyors of Milk	-	-	34
Wholesale Traders and Producers	-	-	22
			—
			56
			—

(8) Action taken under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream regulations.

The Council is not a Local Authority under these Acts.

(9) Action taken with a view to Smoke Abatement :—

No cases were dealt with under this head during the year under review.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector on Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

The following is a summary of the Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces on the Register in your District.

These premises have been kept under observation, and the respective sanitary condition of each has invariably been found satisfactory.

SUMMARY.

FACTORIES—

Factory Bakehouses	-	-	-	5
Building Contractors	-	-	-	4
Tape Works	-	-	-	4
Stone Quarries	-	-	-	5
Whitesmiths	-	-	-	1
				—
Total	-	-	-	19
				—

WORKSHOPS—

Building Contractors	-	-	-	5
Painters, Decorators and Plumbers				8
Tin Plate Workers	-	-	-	1
Blacksmiths	-	-	-	2
Tailors	-	-	-	2
Wagon Repairers	-	-	-	2
Bootmakers	-	-	-	2
Boot Repairers	-	-	-	4
Cabinet Makers	-	-	-	3
Monumentalists	-	-	-	2
Dressmakers	-	-	-	5
Milliners	-	-	-	3
Watch Repairers	-	-	-	0
Cycle Repairers	-	-	-	3
Saddlers	-	-	-	1
Hairdressers	-	-	-	4
Bakehouses	-	-	-	6

Motor Repairers	-	-	-	3
Printers	-	-	-	3
Quarries	-	-	-	5
				<hr/>
Total	-			64
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*Nuisances found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces,
and Remedied.*

Want of Cleanliness	-	-	4
Insanitary Water Closets	-	-	—
Want of Ventilation	-	-	2
Offensive Accumulations	-	-	—
Water Closets defective	-	-	—
Insanitary Privy Closets	-	-	—
Defective Traps	-	-	—
Foul Condition of Premises	-	-	—
Gas Plant emitting Noxious Fumes	-	-	—

Public Scavenging.

Public Scavenging is in operation in the whole District for the cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Pail Closets, Ashpits, Ashbins, and Cesspools, and is carried out by contract.

The whole of the refuse is disposed upon the Gorsey Bank Tip and Hopton Wood Tip, with the exception of the contents of the Pail Closets, which go to the Sewage Farm.

CHARLES FROBISHER,

Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. S. G. CHRISTIE, M.B., Ch.B.

Part time. Half Salary Contributed.

Sanitary Inspector :

CHARLES FROBISHER.

Part time. Half Salary Contributed.

Engineer and Surveyor and Water Engineer to the Council,

Housing.

No. of Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	-						16

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
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(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	302
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(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
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(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	12
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(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to Health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	-	-	-	-	—
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(4) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	-	-	-	-	-	—
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2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers - - - - - 45

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9 and 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - - - 33

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners - - - - - 13

(b) By local authority in default of owners - Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied - 18

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners - - - - - 16

(b) By local authority in default of owners - Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - - - 7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - - - 18

Housing Act, 1936 :

Notices served under S. 11 - - - 2
Ditto S. 9 - - - 19

Water Supply during the Year 1937.

1937.	Rainfall.		Yield of Springs in Gallons per Hour.		
	1936. Inches.	1937. Inches.	1936.	Total Gallons per Hour. 1937.	Increase. Decrease.
Month.					
January	720
February	240
March	2,150
April	2,330
May	1,000
June	950
July	2,000
August	2,640
September	2,030
October	2,860
November	2,040
December	280
	35.36	34.81	6,429	4,871	Average Net Decrease per hour. 1,556

CHARLES FROBISHER,
Water Engineer and Surveyor.

